

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM IR
SUBJ: 589 PRISONERS TO BE FREED MARCH 14

REF: A. TEHRAN 2252, B. TEHRAN 1702

1. PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED 589 PRISONERS ARE BEING FREED MARCH 14 IN COMMEMORATION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF REZA SHAH'S BIRTH. TOTAL INCLUDES 26 ANTI-STATE SECURITY PRISONERS (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND 322 OTHER PRISONERS CONVICTED IN MILITARY COURTS OF MINOR OFFENSES INVOLVING LESS THAN THREE MONTHS' SENTENCE (AWOL, ETC.), INSTEAD OF 32 REPORTED REF A.

2. GOI ALSO RELEASING 241 ADDITIONAL PRISONERS WHO WERE CONVICTED IN CIVILIAN COURTS AS PART OF REZA SHAH BIRTHDAY CENTENARY.

3. THOUGH SITUATION A BIT CONFUSED, IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE TWO MORE AMNESTIES IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. FIRST WILL BE TRADITIONAL NOW RUZ (NEW YEAR) AMNESTY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE ONLY CIVILIAN PRISONERS THIS YEAR. LISTS STILL BEING PREPARED, AND PRESS ESTIMATES OF 700 TO BE FREED, WHICH APPEARED HERE MARCH 14, ARE NOT RPT NOT DEFINITIVE
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THOUGH "IN THE BALL PARK", ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SOURCE.

4. THIRD AMNESTY INVOLVES THOSE WHO WILL BE RELEASED DURING NOW RUZ PERIOD IN ACCORDANCE WITH AMNESTY BILL WHICH PASSED PARLIAMENT SHORT TIME AGO. PROVISIONS OF FINAL BILL ARE AS DESCRIBED REF B, BUT ADMINISTRATIVE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELEASE ARE STILL IN INITIAL STAGES,
SINCE LEGISLATION HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED IN
OFFICIAL GAZETTE. SOURCES TELL S IT IS UNLIKELY THAT
LISTS CAN BE COMPLETED AND PARDONS REQUESTED BY MINISTRY
OF WAR FOR ANTI-STATE PRISONERS IN TIME FOR RELEASE
BEFORE NOW RUZ (MARCH 21), BUT GOI INTENTION IS TO
RELEASE THIS BATCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER NOW RUZ,
SINCE ORIGINAL HOPE WAS TO HAVE LEGISLATION READY FOR
REZA SHAH'S BIRTHDAY.
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Message Attributes

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